

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 498

By Maddox

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Nick Dunagan for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those estimable citizens who have performed their duties with the utmost probity and whose efforts throughout their years of industry were dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nick Dunagan is one such distinguished public servant who has served with honor and distinction during his long career in public service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dunagan will be taking a much deserved retirement from his post as Chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin in June of 2007, leaving behind an incomparable record that present and future administrators would do well to emulate; and

WHEREAS, the son of Horace and Sara Dunagan, Nick Dunagan was born on October 4, 1946, in Humboldt, Tennessee, and graduated from Caruthersville High School in Caruthersville, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dunagan received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1968 and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1971 from the University of Missouri School of Law; he completed Army Officer Basic Course in Ft. Knox, Kentucky, in September of 1972 and earned his Doctorate in Higher Education from Vanderbilt University in 1990; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as a law clerk for the Missouri Supreme Court from 1971 to 1972 and practiced law in Martin, Tennessee, until 1973, when he accepted the position of Director of Development at the University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Dr. Dunagan held various posts; in addition to serving as Director of Development from 1973 to 1977, he has also served with distinction as Executive Director of University Relations and Development from 1977 to 1979, Assistant to the Chancellor from 1979 to 1980, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor from 1980 to 1982, Vice Chancellor for Development from 1982 to 1985, and from 1985 to 2001, Dr. Dunagan served variously as Interim Chancellor three times, Executive Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Development and Administration, Executive Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and as Chancellor from April 2001 until June 2007, when he will retire; and

WHEREAS, the breadth and scope of Dr. Nick Dunagan's professional experience and accomplishments at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UT Martin) are remarkable; he reorganized the university's international program by establishing the Center for Global Studies, established LEAD Academy as the UT Martin student leadership development program, successfully led UT Martin through the 2000 Southern Association of Colleges and Universities regional accreditation, established new off-campus centers in the rural communities of Ripley and Parsons, instituted an online degree program that served as the model for the University of Tennessee's online initiative, and played a major role in the development of the current scholarship program for University Scholars, Honors Seminar, and Leaders-in-Residence programs, to name but a few of his many significant accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dunagan is an active and important part of his community and profession and participates in numerous worthy organizations, including serving as a member of the Weakley County and the Obion County Joint Economic Development Councils, Martin Economic Development Council, Tennessee Soybean Festival Committee, Executive Committee of West Tennessee Public Broadcasting Corporation, and coordinator for Weakley County Education Edge Partnership; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional gentleman has also served as Executive Director of WestStar Leadership Program, Director of First State Bank in Caruthersville, Missouri, and Director of Community First Bankshares, Inc., in Union City, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nick Dunagan served with courage and gallantry as a member of the Tennessee National Guard and retired with the rank of Colonel after twenty-three years of meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Dr. Dunagan was named Weakley County Man of the Year in 2006 and received the Otis Floyd Outstanding University Leadership Award that same year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dunagan is an active and devout member of the Martin First United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, he is also deeply devoted to his family and is most appreciative of the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife, Cathy Porter Dunagan; his four children, Stan Dunagan, Cody Dunagan, Tracy VanderMeeden, and Casey Dunagan; and his four grandchildren, Abby VanderMeeden, Avery VanderMeeden, Austin Dunagan, and Taylor Dunagan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nick Dunagan exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Chancellor Dunagan has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, staff, and students alike; and

WHEREAS, seldom does a man of Dr. Dunagan's stature walk among us; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and thank Dr. Nick Dunagan for his many years of meritorious service to the University of Tennessee at Martin, commend his laudable service to the good people of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

